

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 and 20-25 are in the present application. It is submitted that the prior claims were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 10-19 are canceled. No changes have been made to the remaining claims.

Applicant appreciates the indication by the Examiner that claims 4-9 and 13-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, for the following reasons, Applicant believes all of the remaining claims are allowable without amendment.

Claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reich (U.S. Patent No. 4,827,515). Claims 2-3, 11-12, and 21-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reich. Applicant respectfully asserts the Examiner neither acknowledges nor assesses the distinctiveness of the feature of the independent claims wherein the input signal, in essence, solely comprises the stereo-sum signal and the pilot signal.

As is readily apparent from Figure 1 of Reich, signal ds constitutes a decimated version of digitized composite MPX signal sx. Consequently, signal ds, like signal sx, comprises components corresponding to a stereo-sum signal ss, a pilot signal ps as well as a stereo-difference signal df. Similarly, signal ds' constitutes a decimated version of signal ds and

consequently likewise comprises components corresponding to the stereo-sum signal ss, the pilot signal ps as well as the stereo-difference signal df. This fact is documented in column 3, line 60 to column 4, line 2 of Reich, wherein it is stated that signal ds' "contains the stereo-sum signal ss and the pilot signal ps" and that the "pilot signal ps contains, as interfering signals, ... the undemodulated stereo-difference signal df*...."

While column 4, lines 1-2 of Reich teach that these interfering signals are suppressed by low-pass filtering, it is readily evident from Figure 1 of Reich that this low-pass filtering is not applied to the branch of signal ds' that is input to the PLL correctly identified by the Examiner in the second paragraph on page 3 of the Office Action. Accordingly, Reich does not teach or suggest the claim feature of independent claims 1, 3, 10 and 12, wherein the input signal, in essence, solely comprises the stereo-sum signal and the pilot signal.

Although Applicant believes the dependent claims are patentable by virtue of their dependency, we would nonetheless like to comment on the distinctiveness of dependent claim 21. In the discussion of claim 21, the Examiner equates the second decimated composite signal ds' and the output of the decimation circuit d3 with the claims first and second intermediate signals. The Examiner then goes on to equate decimation circuit d2 with the claimed sampling rate decimator. Yet as is readily visible in Figure 1 of Reich, decimation circuit d2 does not decimate signal ds'. Instead, decimation circuit d2 outputs signal ds'. We consequently recognize no teaching or suggestion in Reich as regards "a sampling rate decimator configured and adapted for sampling rate decimating one of said first and second intermediate signal" as claimed in claim 21.

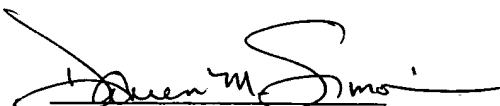
Accordingly, for at least this reason, Reich fails to anticipate or obviate the present invention and the rejected claims should be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
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